## BEFORE THE SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD STATE OF WASHINGTON

	STATE OF V	VASHINGTON
2	LESLIE A. POWERS and	
3	RICK ROZZELL,	
4	Petitioners,	SHB 05-029
5	v.	ORDER ON MOTIONS
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7	JEFFERSON COUNTY; TRENDWEST RESORTS, INC.; and PORT LUDLOW ASSOCIATES, LLC,	
8		
9	Respondents.	
	Petitioners Leslie A. Powers and Rick R	ozzell filed an appeal with the Shorelines
10	Hearings Board (Board) challenging Jefferson (	County's issuance of a Shoreline Substantial
11	Development Permit (SDP05-00002) with cond	itions for the development of a 120-unit time-
12	share multi-family residential development on approximately 14.66 acres within the Port Ludlow	
13	Master Planned Resort.	
14	Waster Franced Resort.	
15	The Board was comprised of William H	. Lynch, presiding, Kathleen D. Mix, Judy
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16	Wilson, Kevin Ranker, and Judy Barbour. No o	oral argument was held. The Board deliberated
17	the motions based upon the record. Donald E. I	Marcy and Michael S. Brunet represent
18	Respondent Trendwest Resorts, Inc. (Trendwes	t). Marco de Sa e Silva represents Respondent
19	Port Ludlow Associates, LLC. (PLA). David A	Ivarez represents Respondent Jefferson County.
20	Petitioner Leslie A. Powers represents himself a	and Petitioner Rick Rozzell.
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SHB 05-029 ORDER ON MOTIONS

1	Four different dispositive motions were filed in this case. They are:	
2	1) <u>Powers' Motion for Summary Judgment.</u> The Petitioner requests the Board to remand the SSDP back to the County on the basis that it was not finally approved by the County.	
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4	2) <u>Trendwest's Motion to Dismiss.</u> Trendwest moves for dismissal of the entire case on the basis that the shoreline appeal before the Board was filed too late because the SSDP was final when filed with Ecology. Trendwest also contends the Board has no jurisdiction to decide the	
5	issues raised in the appeal.	
6	3) <u>Jefferson County's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment.</u> Jefferson County has asked the Board to dismiss issues #4, #5, #6, and #7. The County notes that another portion of	
7	this proposed project is before the superior court. It contends that the action and authority of the Appellant Hearing Examiner should be brought in superior court under the Land Use Petition	
8	Act (LUPA).	
9	4) <u>Port Ludlow Associates' Motion to Dismiss.</u> PLA moves for dismissal of the entire case on the basis that the appeal was filed too late. PLA also contends the Board has no	
0	jurisdiction to decide the issues raised in the appeal.	
1	The Board has reviewed and considered the pleadings, motion papers, and exhibits	
2	contained in the Board record, including the following:	
13	1. Petitioner's Petition for Review and Attached Exhibits;	
4	2. Petitioner's Motion for Summary Judgment;	
5	<ol> <li>Petitioner's Memorandum of Facts and Law in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment;</li> </ol>	
6	4. Declaration of Leslie A. Powers and attachments;	
17	5. Supplemental Declaration of Leslie A. Powers and attachments;	
8	<ol> <li>Respondent Trendwest's Response to Petitioners' Motion for Summary Judgment;</li> </ol>	
9	7. Respondent Jefferson County's Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Petitioners' Motion for Summary Judgment;	
20	remoders wouldn't Summary Judgment,	
1	8. Declaration of David Alvarez dated February 16, 2006, and attachment;	

1	9. Respondent Jefferson County's Memorandum of Law in Support of Its Partial Dispositive Motion;
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3	10. Declaration of David Alvarez in Support of Respondent Jefferson County's Partial Dispositive Motion and attachment;
4	11. Declaration of Al Scalf in Support of Respondent Jefferson County's Partial Dispositive Motion and attachments;
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6	12. Respondent Trendwest's Motion to Dismiss;
7	13. Declaration of Donald E. Marcy, Respondent Trendwest Resorts, Inc.'s Motion to Dismiss;
8	14. PLA's Motion to Dismiss and Memorandum in Support of Dispositive Motions of Jefferson County and Trendwest;
9	15. Petitioner's Reply Brief to Respondents Jefferson County's Motion to
10	Dismiss; Trendwest's Motion to Dismiss; and PLA's Memorandum of Law in
	Support of Its Partial Dispositive Motion; and
11	16. Declaration of Leslie A. Powers and attachments.
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13	Having fully considered the record in this case and being fully advised, the Board enters
	the following ruling.
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15	FACTUAL BACKGROUND
16	The site is located within Jefferson County on the north shore of Ludlow Cove at the west
17	end of Port Ludlow Bay. The site comprises 14.66 acres, which is located within the Port
18	Ludlow Master Planned Resort. The proposal, known as Ludlow Cove Division 2, would create
19	a 120-unit time-share multi-family residential development. Staff Report and Recommendation
20	to Jefferson County Hearing Examiner and Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance
21	(MDNS), Attachment to Petition for Review.
	SHB 05-029 ORDER ON MOTIONS 3

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Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend jointly adopted a Shoreline Management Master Program (SMMP) in March 1989. *Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 3*. The SMMP is currently applicable only to Jefferson County because Port Townsend subsequently adopted its own SMMP. *Declaration of David Alvarez, p.3,* ¶ 16.

In January 1995, the prior owner of the property, Pope Resources, filed a preliminary plat application with Jefferson County for the single and multi-family residential project known as Ludlow Cove. In 1998 Jefferson County adopted the Land Use Procedures Ordinance (LUPO), Ordinance #04-0828-98, to comply with the state Land Use Petition Act (chapter 36.70C RCW) and the Regulatory Reform Act (chapter 36.70B RCW). *Declaration of Al Scalf, p. 3, ¶ 11; see also Attachment 3.* LUPO became effective on September 28, 1998. *Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 4.* LUPO was never submitted to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for its approval for incorporation into the Jefferson County SMMP.

Pope Resources signed a development agreement with Jefferson County on May 1, 2000, for property owned by Pope Resources within the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort.

Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 5. Section 3.12.1 of the development agreement provides that all development applications proposed by Pope for the Pope Property must be pursuant to the MPR Zoning Ordinance and the County's LUPO. Section 4.22 of the agreement states that the term of the agreement is 20 years from its effective date.

PLA purchased Pope Resources' interest in the Ludlow Cove site in 2001. The County Hearing Examiner approved an application pertaining to Ludlow Cove on August 2, 2002.

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On January 13, 2005, PLA filed a Master Land Use Application pursuant to LUPO to
develop Ludlow Cove, Division Two. Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachments 1 & 2. The
application covered a variance, binding site plan, and the SSDP, and included a SEPA checklist.
Although PLA owns the property, the proponent of the proposal is Trendwest. Declaration of Al
Scalf, p.2, $\P$ 4.

The county staff determined that the process for "Type B" permits under the LUPO rules applied to the proposal. *Id*, *p*. 4, ¶ 15. Under the Type B LUPO process, a Hearing Examiner makes the initial decision, which subsequently may be appealed to an Appellate Hearing Examiner. *Id*. *p*.5, ¶ 23; see also Attachment 4.

An open record hearing was held before a Hearing Examiner on August 15, 2005. The Hearing Examiner's decision was issued on September 2, 2005. *Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachments 6 & 7*. On the same day, Jefferson County mailed a notice to interested parties, including the Petitioners, notifying them of the Hearing Examiner's decision. The notice states "Appeals of this decision must be made in writing as outlined in the attached instruction sheet." *Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 7*.

The attached instruction sheet states that an aggrieved party of record may file an appeal to the Appellate Hearing Examiner by September 16, 2005. The instruction sheet also states that "Instructions and requirements for processing an appeal of a Hearing Examiner Type B decision are explained in the [LUPO]." Section 15 of LUPO sets forth the procedures for Type B decisions before the Hearing Examiner. Subsection C.4. of this section authorizes a person to file a motion for reconsideration with the Hearing Examiner within ten working days from the

1	date the Hearing Examiner's decision was filed. It further provides that "[i]f a timely and
2	appropriate request for reconsideration is filed, the appeal period shall begin from the date the
3	decision on the reconsideration is issued." Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 4, p. 13 of 19.
4	Consistent with these instructions from the County, Petitioner timely filed a motion for
5	reconsideration on September 12, 2005. Mr. Lewis Hale also timely filed a motion for
6	reconsideration. Declaration of Leslie A. Powers, p. 2. However, on September 13, 2005,
7	Jefferson County sent the SSDP as conditioned by the Hearing Examiner to Ecology for filing.
8	Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachments 8 & 9. The County staff believed the SSDP was final.
9	Declaration of Al Scalf, p. 6, ¶ 27. Ecology received the SSDP on September 15, 2005.
10	Declaration of David Alvarez, February 16, 2006, Attachment 1. The Petitioner inquired on
11	September 14 <sup>th</sup> of the County about the deadlines for filing appeals. Mr. Scalf sent an e-mail
12	response indicating that the SSDP was already filed with Ecology, and that an appeal with the
13	Shorelines Hearings Board must be filed within 21 days after this filing. Mr. Powers asserts this
14	e-mail response from the County, along with other e-mails, was lost from his computer and no
15	other notice was sent. Mr. Powers did not immediately seek another response from the County.
16	The Hearings Examiner denied the motion for reconsideration on September 27, 2005.
17	Declaration of Leslie A. Powers, Attachment.

The Petitioner filed an appeal with the Appellate Hearing Examiner on October 12, 2005, as directed by LUPO and the Part B procedures. On October 14, 2005, the Appellate Hearing Examiner issued a guidance letter that stated he believed he did not have jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the Hearing Examiner's decision to approve the SSDP with conditions. *Declaration of* 

SHB 05-029 ORDER ON MOTIONS

Al Scalf, Attachment 10. The Petitioner filed a Motion for Reconsideration of this decision on October 26, 2005. On October 31, 2005, the Appellate Hearing Examiner issued an order denying a motion to reconsider his October 14<sup>th</sup> letter. *Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 11*. An appeal was filed with the Shorelines Hearings Board on November 3, 2005.

## **ANALYSIS**

Summary judgment is designed to do away with unnecessary trials when there is no genuine issue of material fact. *LaPlante v. State*, 85 Wn.2d 154, 531 P.2d 299 (1975). A material fact is one upon which the outcome of the litigation depends. *Jacobsen v. State*, 89 Wn.2d 104, 569 P.2d 1152 (1977). In a summary judgment proceeding, the moving party has the initial burden of showing there is no dispute as to any material fact. *Hiatt v. Walker Chevrolet*, 120 Wn.2d 57, 66, 837 P.2d 618 (1992). If the moving party has met its burden of producing factual evidence showing it is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, the burden shifts "to the nonmoving party to set forth facts showing there is a genuine issue of material fact." *Hash v. Children's Orthopedic Hosp.*, 110 Wn.2d 912, 915, 757 P.2d 507 (1988). In ruling on a motion for summary judgment, the Court must consider all of the material evidence and all inferences therefrom in a manner most favorable to the non-moving party and, when so considered, if reasonable persons might reach different conclusions, the motion should be denied. *Hash* at 915; *Wood v. Seattle*, 57 Wn.2d 469, 358 P.2d 140 (1960).

The legal issues in this case, as contained in the Second Pre-Hearing Order, are as follows:

1	1.	Was the petition for review filed by the Petitioners with the Shorelines Hearings Board filed in a timely manner?
2	2.	Does the decision of Jefferson County to issue Shoreline Substantial
3		Development Permit SDP05-00002 (SSDP) with conditions to coapplicants Port Ludlow Associates and Trendwest for construction of a
4		120-unit multi-family timeshare development at Ludlow Cove Division II comply with the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program, the
5		applicable provisions of the Washington Administrative Code, and chapter 90.58 RCW?
_	3.	Should the petition be dismissed for failure to serve all the parties in a
6	4.	timely manner?  Does the Shorelines Hearings Board have jurisdiction to hear an appeal of
7		the decision by the appellate hearing examiner for Jefferson County that
		he did not have jurisdiction to hear an appeal of the SSDP?
8	5.	Was the SSDP submission final for filing when the Jefferson County
9	6.	Department of Community Development (DCD) filed it with Ecology? Did DCD comply with applicable law, including the county's shoreline master program's provision relating to notice when it submitted the SSDP
10		to Ecology?
11	7.	Is it legally proper to issue additional SSDPs to the project proponent for other properties it owns in the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort if they
12		are alleged to be in violation of SSDP 91-017, the Shorelines Management Act, and the Shoreline Master Program in Ludlow Bay Village?
13	Finality of	Hearing Examiner's Decision
14	<u>r manty or</u>	Treating Examiner & Decision
	The Board	finds that the County erred by sending the SSDP to Ecology on September 13,
15	2005, because it w	as not the final decision of the County. At the time of the transmittal to
16	Ecology the motic	on and appeal procedures spelled out in the ordinance were still underway and
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18	available to the Pe	titioners. Because of this determination, the Board does not address other
10	issues raised in thi	s appeal. 1
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21	assertion that he w	not essential to this decision, the Board does not agree with Petitioner's as owed specific notice by the County that the SSDP had been sent to 0.58.140(4) requires a local government to forward a copy of the decision in a
	SHB 05-029 ORDER ON MOT	TIONS 8

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3	appeal,
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7	LUPO
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11	do so, ι

All of the Respondents state the appeal should be dismissed because it is untimely, based ne date which the County filed the SSDP with Ecology. Regarding timeliness of the the County argues that the Board does not have the statutory authority to review local ment decisions regarding the authority given to its hearing examiners. The County also ds that the SMMP controls the appeals process at issue. The County reasons that LUPO amend the County SMMP because Jefferson County never asked Ecology to approve as an amendment to the SMMP. Therefore, the County contends that SSMP Section 690 is the controlling provision, which establishes a 30-day deadline from receipt of the der for filing shoreline permit appeals. Essentially, the County argues that it erroneously d the petitioner into the wrong review and appellate process, and was without authority to do so, under its SMMP. See Declaration of Al Scalf, Attachment 3.

Similarly, Trendwest and PLA assert that the Shorelines Hearings Board does not have authority to consider jurisdictional decisions by the Appellate Hearing Examiner. They also contend that the SSMP trumps other general code requirements.

WAC 173-27-130 provides that the final decision by the local government is filed with Ecology. RCW 90.58.180(1) addresses service of a petition for review after the petition

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timely manner to each person requesting a copy of the decision. The Petitioner was provided timely notice of the Hearing Examiner's decision. Although it is unfortunate that there was a problem in retrieving an e-mail response from the County, the County did not owe additional notice regarding the filing of the SSDP. Petitioner should have been aware that the SSDP was likely to be filed with Ecology shortly after the issuance of the decision. The Board reached this same conclusion in Ferari v. Lewis County and Robert Thompson, SHB No. 05-033 (Order Dismissing Appeal) (May 10, 2006).

1	pertaining to a final decision of a local government has been filed. RCW 90.58.180(2)
2	authorizes the Attorney General and Ecology to obtain review of any final decision of a local
3	government granting a permit, or granting or denying an application for a permit. With respect
4	to appeals of local government decisions, the framework for shorelines appeals restricts the
5	Board's jurisdiction to only final decisions by local governments.
6	The Board has clear authority to determine whether the action taken by a local
7	government is "final" for purposes of appeal to the Board. In Morgan et al. v. Clark County et
8	al., SHB Nos. 05-008 & 05-009 (Order on Petitioners' Jurisdictional Motions)(August 1, 2005),

the Board was faced with whether Clark County had made a final decision on a SSDP and a conditional use permit for a proposed mine expansion. Although there were unresolved issues in that case which could ultimately affect the activity conducted at the site, the Shorelines Hearings Board found that the Clark County Board of Commissioners did make a final decision on the shoreline permits after the hearing examiner employed by the County had made an initial determination.

In this case, Jefferson County adopted LUPO with the stated purpose of establishing procedures for the County to process land use applications. The ordinance states:

The procedures are designed to promote timely and informed public participation; eliminate redundancy in the land use application review process; minimize delay and expense; and help ensure the use of land in a manner consistent with County goals as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations.

Section 1, Attachment 4, Declaration of Al Scarf.

In Jefferson County, LUPO incorporates shoreline permits applications and appeals as part of the permits subject to its review procedures. Section 6 of the ordinance divides land use applications into three different categories. The "Type A" category only requires the Director to make an administrative decision. Shoreline exemptions and SSDPs for primary uses are both listed under this category.

Consistent with its stated purpose, Section 7 of LUPO allows applications to be

Consistent with its stated purpose, Section 7 of LUPO allows applications to be consolidated. This section provides that:

A land use application that involves two or more permits may, at the option of the Applicant, be consolidated into a single process using the highest procedure required for any permit included in the application.

Attachment 4, Declaration of Al Scarf.

Condominium subdivisions of five or more units and conditional uses are considered to by Type B decisions. Type B decisions require the decision to be made by a Hearing Examiner. Section 15.A. of LUPO mandates the use of the Hearing Examiner procedures for "Type B land use applications and all other land use applications considered under Type B procedures using consolidated permit review." Because the proposed project includes a SSDP (Type A decision) and a condominium subdivision (Type B decision), the consolidated application process under LUPO requires a Hearing Examiner to review the SSDP in this case.

A further examination of LUPO illustrates that the SSDP was subject to the entire LUPO

process, and that it was an error for the County to segregate the SSDP apart from the rest of the

consolidated application and transmit the permit to Ecology. Section 19 of LUPO contains a

SHB 05-029 ORDER ON MOTIONS

chart showing the review procedures to be undertaken by the Hearing Examiner and the
Appellate Examiner. In the Appellate Examiner column, both Type A and Type B applications
contain an asterisk. The asterisk, as indicated in the key, provides "These decisions may be
appealed to Superior Court or the Shorelines Hearings Board in accordance with Chapter
36.70C RCW or Chapter 90.58 RCW." (emphasis added). No such asterisk appears in the
Hearing Examiner column.

Furthermore, Section D.7. of LUPO states that "[t]he decision of the Hearing Examiner shall be final unless, within fourteen (14) calendar days after issuance of a decision, a party appeals the decision to the Appellate Examiner in accordance with this Chapter." (emphasis added). Nothing in LUPO suggests that the Hearing Examiner's decision regarding a shoreline permit would somehow become a final decision if a timely appeal of this decision was made to the Appellate Examiner. The "Appellate Examiner" is defined as "the individual who decides appeals of Hearing Examiner Decisions." Section 2, Attachment 4, Declaration of Al Scalf.

Section 5 of LUPO contains specific exemptions from the review processes established in the chapter. No exemptions are listed for shoreline cases. Thus, there is simply nothing in this Ordinance that would give notice to a party that an alternative method of appeal applied, and that a final decision had been made at the hearings examiner level for the shoreline aspects of a permit.

In the present case, Jefferson County transmitted the SSDP to Ecology even before the Hearing Examiner rendered his decision on reconsideration. Section C.4. states that "[i]f a

timely and appropriate request for reconsideration is filed, the appeal period shall begin from the date the decision on the reconsideration is issued." (emphasis added).

Respondents contend that the SMMP controls over LUPO because LUPO was never approved by Ecology for incorporation into the SMMP. Jefferson County's intent to utilize LUPO's two-tiered hearing examiner process for consolidated appeals, including shoreline permit appeals, is abundantly clear. Section 3 of this ordinance expressly states that:

The procedures for decision-making described in this Chapter and in the Rules of Procedure adopted under this Chapter supersede any conflicting procedures that may be found in other chapters of the Jefferson County Code. This Chapter applies to existing permit applications as well as to those that may be filed in the future.

Jefferson County established a two-tier appellate process with different hearing examiners at each level for consolidated land use applications. Because a portion of this process may occasionally include shoreline permits does not require the incorporation of this entire process as part of the SMMP.

Even if the Respondents' argument that the SMMP controls over LUPO is accepted, the Hearing Examiner's decision still does not constitute the final decision in this case. Section 18.25.480(2) and (3) of the SMMP authorizes the Hearings Examiner to take actions regarding permit applications under the Shoreline Management Act and the SMMP. Section 18.25.490(2) provides that the Board of County Commissioners acts as an appeals board "with respect to decisions by the hearing examiner issued within the scope of the master program." This includes appeals of decisions regarding applications for shoreline permits. *Section* 18.25.490(1). If the County concluded that there is no appeal to the appellate hearings examiner on shoreline

SHB 05-029 ORDER ON MOTIONS permitting matters, it should have directed petitioner to this alternative route of review prior to transmitting the decision to Ecology.

Although Section 18.25.690 provides for appeals to be made to the Shorelines Hearings Board, that section applies only after receipt of the final order. Respondents' suggestion that Section 18.25.690 allows appeals directly from the Hearing Examiner to the Shorelines Hearings Board would make language in Section 18.25.480 superfluous. When interpreting legislative enactments, they should be read to give each word and clause effect so no part is rendered meaningless or superfluous. *Hangartner v. Seattle*, 151 Wn.2d 439, 451, 90 P.3d 26 (2004). It also fails to recognize that Section 18.25.510(8) authorizes a person aggrieved by an action taken on an application may appeal the decision in compliance *with Section 18.25.680* and 18.25.690. (emphasis added). Section 18.25.680 authorizes appeals before the Jefferson County Hearing Examiner. As discussed earlier, Section 18.25.490 establishes the Board of County Commissioners as an appeals board from Hearing Examiner decisions.

Trendwest also argues that other rules of statutory construction, including "the specific controls over the general", should make the SMMP supersede the LUPO. Although this is a widely recognized rule of statutory construction when two provisions cannot be harmonized, *Omega National Insurance Company v. Marquardt*, 115 Wn.2d 416, 425, 799 P.2d 235 (1990), in this case Trendwest has the argument backwards. The more specific process is the consolidated review process established by LUPO to implement the Regulatory Reform Act. This controls over the more general and earlier enacted provisions of the SMMP. In addition, if statutory provisions conflict, the more specific and latest in order controls. *State v. San Juan* 

County, 102 Wn.2d 311, 320, 686 P.2d 1073 (1984). Even if there is a question about reconciling these two ordinances, Jefferson County expressly stated in Section 3 of LUPO, which is entitled "Controlling Ordinance and Rules", that LUPO expressly supersedes any conflicting ordinance. The LUPO provisions control the processing of this permit application and any subsequent appeals.

The Jefferson County Hearing Examiner cannot pick and choose what permits are subject to full LUPO review. In *Morgan*, the Clark County Board of Commissioners was the entity designated to make the final decision on the shoreline permits in question. If the Hearing Examiner in that case had transmitted the permits to Ecology prior to the Commissioners' action, it likewise would have been flawed because it was not a final decision by the County. Jefferson County had not yet made a final decision regarding the SSDP in this case when the permit was transmitted to Ecology prior to review by the Appellate Examiner, or alternatively, by the Board of County Commissioners, acting as an appeals board.

A remand to the local government is usually the remedy in a case where there is a lack of a final decision by the local government. Here, because of confusion and misdirection in the application of the proper procedures for the shoreline permit, there is no final decision by a local government sufficient to give the Board jurisdiction.

1	<u>ORDER</u>
2	The Motions for Summary Judgment are DENIED on all issues and the case is
3	REMANDED to Jefferson County for further actions, consistent with this opinion.
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5	Done this 17 <sup>th</sup> day of May 2006.
6	SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD
7	WILLIAM H. LYNCH, Presiding
8	KATHLEEN D. MIX, Member
9	JUDY WILSON, Member
10	JUDY BARBOUR, Member
11	KEVIN RANKER, Member
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